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PENSACOLA'S MARDI GRAS CARNIVAL CLOSES WITH GORGEOUS STREET PAGEANT AND GRAND CORONATION BALL

THE STREET PAGEANT WAS MAGNIFICENT

Fourteen Floats and Three Bands Formed the Mystic Parade.

It Was Viewed by the Largest Crowd Ever Gathered in Pensacola.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM DISPLAYED AS KING PRISCUS PASSED OVER THE ROUTE SEATED ON THE KING'S FLOAT—THE FINEST PARADE EVER GIVEN IN PENSACOLA.

The most magnificent street pageant ever witnessed in the Deep South, or for that matter, any other city of the south, was the one which was viewed by all of Pensacola and 7,000 visitors last night as it passed through the principal streets of the city. There was not one thing lacking. The floats were gorgeous and brought forth exclamations of surprise and admiration. The bands played these airs which are never so popular as on such an occasion, and King Priscus IX, seated upon his throne, looked to his subjects and saluted them in that manner which indicated his subject's appreciation of the reception by his loyal subjects in turning out en masse to welcome him on his annual visit to the city. The king's spirit was everywhere, no matter where he was, and the parade occurred with such a mass of humanity striving to get a glimpse of King Priscus.

The Preparations. As early in the afternoon as 5 o'clock the vicinity of the carnival grounds was the scene of the greatest activity. Mounted aides were dashing hither and thither, the floats were being drawn from the sheds, where they were created, and lights, torches, etc., placed in the hands of those who were to assist in the parade to follow. At 6:30 o'clock the last of the floats, to each of which was hitched four horses, was drawn into line on West Garden street. The magnificent float of the king, which was at the head of the parade, stood near the intersection of Royal and the king took his place on the float early, but it was not until 7 o'clock that His Majesty arrived in a closed carriage, and was assisted to his seat.

The Parade Starts. At 7:10 o'clock Grand Marshal George Turner gave the signal for the parade to move. A platoon of mounted police, under Marshal Sanders led the parade, and cleared the streets with difficulty. The fine Barbanco brass band came next, and then the float of the king, a magnificent creation which displayed the ability of the artist who designed it, and it was cleverly carried through the plans. Then came the following floats: The Title float, Paradise and Peri, Paradise Lost, Phylis and Circe, Wye's Band, Hamlet, Bells, Denz, Denzo, The Day-Dream, The Corsair, Hawatha, Shallock's Band, Fighting the Dragon, Fant, Lady of the Lake.

Route of Parade. From Garden street the parade proceeded north on the east side of Palafox street to Wright, west on Wright to the west side of Palafox, south to Jefferson, north on Jefferson to Palafox, north on Palafox to Garden, north on Garden to sheds, and there disbanded.

Immense Crowds. Along each of the streets traversed by the parade the balconies, sidewalks and streets were packed and jammed with a crowd larger than had ever before gathered in Pensacola to witness a Mardi Gras celebration or any other attraction ever offered the public by Pensacola. From Wright street south on Palafox to Cedar there was almost a solid mass of humanity, barely enough room being left in the center of the streets for the passage of the parade. The parkway in the center of Palafox street from Garden to the sheds, where the parade disbanded, was also crowded.

Much Applause. The King was greeted enthusiastically. (Continued on Page Eight.)



KING PRISCUS IX.

LUCIUS S. BROWN.

SEVEN THOUSAND CAME HERE FOR MARDI GRAS

P. O. FRAUDS ARE CHARGED

Congressman Lloyd Charges Robbery of \$70,000,000 By Railroads.

SAYS PRESENT METHOD OF WEIGHING MAIL IS ADMISSION ON PART OF POSTMASTER GENERAL THAT HUGE FRAUDS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED—AN INVESTIGATION PROMISED—SENATE DISCUSSES ALDRICH CURRENCY BILL.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 3.—A startling charge that railroads carrying mail had robbed the people of \$70,000,000, was made in the house today by Lloyd of Missouri. He declared that the new system of weighing the mails was an admission of the postmaster general that weighing in the past 27 years had been fraudulent. Lloyd called for an investigation of the postoffice department, and Wagner of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee controlling the expenses of the department, promised that an inquiry will be made. Several others spoke, and the postoffice bill was still under consideration at the time the house adjourned.

Senate Talks Currency. Senators McCumber, of North Dakota and Newlands of Nevada spoke in the senate today on the pending currency bill. Both contended for modifications of emergency in the currency bill, and each declared in favor of legislation that would add to the confidence on the part of the depositors in banks and apparently favor any plan for preventing panics. The senate also passed a resolution offered by Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, calling on the attorney general for all information concerning the court proceedings in the Indian Territory affecting the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. A number of bills of minor importance were passed.

MOBILE ENJOYS TWO MARDI GRAS PAGEANTS. By Associated Press. Mobile, March 3.—Mobile's Mardi Gras carnival ended tonight with a parade of the Order of Myths, the suggestion carried out being "Love On the Planet Mars." At the same time the Infant Mystics paraded the streets, their floats illustrating "The Martyrs." Following the parades, the mystic societies gave their annual balls.

MARDI GRAS SPIRIT AT ITS HIGH MARK

Pensacola's Greatest Carnival Came to Spectacular Close Last Night.

NO CELEBRATION EVEN IN NEW ORLEANS EVER SURPASSED IN QUALITY THE GREAT EFFORT OF PAST TWO DAYS.

Pensacola last night reached the high water mark in her Mardi Gras history. Perhaps you have seen Canal street in New Orleans where Mardi Gras is supposed to be at its best on this continent. But at its very best Canal street in that city never surpassed Palafox street in Pensacola as it was last night. This leading thoroughfare was so brilliant, so variegated, so picturesque, so full of a swarming mass of happy humanity, male and female, crowding, jostling and incessantly chattering without ever an unpleasant word, that no language can do justice to it. The streets were something wonderful and it would take half a dozen columns to describe that kaleidoscopic living picture changing every moment. All types of humanity were present and never did Pensacola so well prove her claim as a cosmopolitan city.

The soldier, the sailor and the citizen were all in evidence, and women, old and young, beautiful and homely, with thousands of children, were present and struggling good naturedly along the sidewalks, taking the confetti dashed in their faces with admirable good humor.

Palafox street was brilliantly illuminated by lines of electric lamps stretched across from house to house; and the fire street presented a spectacle of vivid light which made it almost a fairy scene. For hours in front of the postoffice and on verandas along the street, women and children had been massed waiting patiently for the great parade which was to end the celebration and give a brilliant spectacular climax to the Mardi Gras of 1908 in Pensacola.

Their patience was rewarded, for about 7:30 o'clock the parade turned in Palafox street. It was fully up to the most exacting expectation and the thousands of people along the line of march heartily cheered the dashing and fascinating effects presented by the various floats.

The procession was a grand success. The platoon of mounted police in front cleared the way; the torches threw a crimson light over the scene that was almost weird, and with the stirring notes of the bands, the great audience jammed along the sidewalks ceased to chatter and looked with almost reverent eyes upon the stately floats which came by drawn by prancing horses and in a blaze of light and color. They were allegorical and historical, and so beautiful and artistic with the human representatives masked and costumed to complete the picture, that the crowds burst into irrepressible cheers as the gorgeous pageant moved along the street.

It was an impressive triumph, perhaps beyond precedent in our local annals, and in the enormous masses of people of all kinds and conditions present to do homage to King Priscus we got the clear proof that Mardi Gras is a fixed annual institution in Pensacola.

Auto Races at Ormond. Mar First Day of Millionaires' Sport.

By Associated Press. Ormond, Fla., March 3.—Slow time and a chapter of accidents marked the two events run off at Ormond beach today opening the sixth annual tournament under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

Cedrine, driving a sixty horse power Italian car, Blakely, driving a 130 horse power American car, and Shefts, with a 120 horse power American car, started. Shefts's car went out before a quarter of a mile, and the other American car went out at the ten mile turn. Cedrine finished alone. Time, 1:56.20, which is much lower than the record. The 150 mile event was won by Bergdel in an 80 horse power German car. Time, 2:40.33.



QUEEN OF THE CARNIVAL.

MISS STELLA AVERY.

HE WAS RECOGNIZED, BUT LADY HAD LOST JOURNAL

DEFENSE OF U. S. NAVY

Experts Testify to Safety of Present Turrets and to Navy's Gunnery.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 3.—Four naval officers, all experts in turret construction and ammunition manufacture, testified before the senate naval committee today in defense of the American navy against all forms of criticism.

Prof. P. R. Alger, instructor in mathematics at the naval academy, and member of the department board on turrets; Commander F. E. Fletcher, and Lieut. Commander V. O. Chase spoke in detail concerning turret accidents, and none of these officers seemed to think there was great danger from the direct hoist, if some changes be made to provide a more effective screening between the ammunition handling room and the big guns.

Prof. Alger defended the American navy as to criticism made by Commander Sims that poor marksmanship was shown at Santiago. He declared American gunnery was as good as that of any navy, and at the present time there was no navy in the world that could surpass the American in straight shooting.

TO HUNT DOWN ALIEN CROOKS

Aid of Police Asked to More Rigidly Enforce Immigration Laws.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 3.—The secretary of commerce and labor today issued a sweeping order to all commissioners of immigration, and immigrant inspectors in charge, directing them to confer with the police in their respective jurisdictions, with a view to obtaining the cooperation of police and detective forces in an effort to rid the country of alien anarchists and criminals falling within the law relating to deportations.

THE ROYAL CORONATION AND BALL

King Unmasks, Revealing Handsome Features of Mr. L. S. Brown.

Several Fine Tableaux Made Pretty Pictures For a Large Audience.

CORONATION BALL FORMED A BRILLIANT SCENE WHERE BRAVE MEN AND FAIR WOMEN DID LAST HONOR TO MIGHTY PRISCUS AND HIS GRACIOUS QUEEN.

The grand climax to Pensacola's two great days of revelry, fun and frolic was witnessed at the Opera House last night, when the coronation ball occurred, and King Priscus, merriest of the merry monarchs, unmasked, disclosing the well-known and handsome features of Mr. Lucius S. Brown.

Mr. Brown is one of Pensacola's most prominent business men, and his identity has been wonderfully well concealed from the public. Many conjectures were made as to whom King Priscus IX would be, but very few people guessed it right.

After the mystic parade, which ended a little after 9 o'clock, the Opera House was filled to its capacity by a representative audience, most of whom appeared in evening dress.

Beautiful Tableaux. Preceding the coronation and the unmasking of the king, several beautiful tableaux were shown, in which the various mystic figures and personages who were seen upon the floats were assembled in costume, and very attractive pictures they formed.

King on His Throne. After the tableaux, the curtain rose revealing the king seated upon his throne, his two little pages at his feet. The throne was hung with purple satin which fell from the heavy oak framing in rich folds. Yellow satin draped the top of the throne and green carpet covered the steps.

The king wore an elegant costume of white satin trimmed in gold, with a heavy satin mantle which was fastened to a jeweled collar. His jewels were rubies and emeralds, which were also set in his crown and scepter. Harold White and Vic Meade, his two handsome little pages, wore costumes of white satin with red velvet mantles lined with red satin. Big red hats with long plumes in them set off their pretty little faces to perfection.

The Royal Consort. As the grand march sounded, the queen's maids and knights in waiting entered.

First came Miss Katherine Avery, with Mr. Dudley Thornton. Miss Avery was gowned in a beautiful creation of white lace, trimmed in pearls. Her hair was arranged in a pompadour with lovely pearl ornaments. Her slippers and gloves matched her costume, which was very pretty and becoming.

Then came Miss Edna Covington with Mr. Frank Reilly. Miss Covington wore a handsome gown of white liberty satin, fashioned in a la empire, and trimmed in duchess lace. Her flowers were white carnations and her jewels were pearls.

Next came Miss Fan Turner and Dr. M. E. Quina. Miss Turner wore a strikingly lovely gown of cream liberty satin, the front panel of which was exquisitely hand-embroidered, and trimmed in pearls. Over the front of this lovely gown were hand-embroidered daisies, each of which had a brilliant in the center. The sleeves were of fluffy ruffles of lace and tulle. Around her neck she wore a string of pearls with a handsome pendant.

Miss Dixie Bass entered with Mr. Buckner Chipley. Miss Bass wore a costume of white liberty satin fashioned in a la princesse front and empire back. This beautiful gown was elaborately trimmed in lace and wide white satin ribbon. Her jewels were diamonds.

The last of the maids and knights to enter were Miss Fan Warren and Paymaster Jas. R. Bull. Miss Warren's gown was one of the prettiest worn, being fashioned of white liberty satin, hand-embroidered, and lavishly trimmed in real lace.

The Queen Appears. There was an expectant pause, and then came Miss Stella Avery, Pensacola's ninth and beautiful queen of the carnival.

With pretty self-possession she

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